

Dear Environment Committee;

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed bear hunting law for Connecticut. I am strongly opposed to the idea of bear hunting in Connecticut, and urge you to reject this proposal. I am a resident of Connecticut and appreciate being able to share my views with you on this issue.

As I understand it, the concern is the increase in bear sightings has people concerned. However, black bears are not known for being aggressive towards humans. According to the North American Bear Center, only 61 people have been killed by black bears since 1900. That is over 100 years. A person's chances of being killed by a domestic dog, bee, lightning, or another human are vastly greater. The bears we have in Connecticut are known for being very tolerant of people and a low threat. This year, my mother had a black bear in her yard. She was gardening and it came very close before she realized. She was scared when she turned around and saw it so close to her, but her fear faded when the bear expressed mild curiosity and then continued on. The way humans live is highly disruptive to the environment. It is natural that we will have encounters with wildlife as we encroach more into their spaces and leave them with less space. However, it is unfair for us to expect all of nature to cater to our fears and property lines. Increased education is a much better way to go than allowing people to kill harmless animals out of ignorance.

Each and every living thing in the world is in some way dependent on each other, though we can't always directly see it. When a species is wiped out or becomes extinct, the ramifications stretch well beyond that one species. All living things have a purpose in the environment, cycle of life, and livelihood of us all. We need the balance of contributions from all living things. To allow people to hunt the bears will likely damage their population and could have serious effects on us all. We need to allow other species an opportunity to thrive in order for us all to. The bear population is getting higher, but bears are not animals who frequently have lots of offspring, like say a rabbit. Their population is just getting to a good place. There are many bear species still in the under threat category.

I am not against the idea of hunting for food. If people are going to use the whole animal, that is just a part of life. I think allowing people to hunt bears for sport is unfair and unreasonable. Hunting to get rid of the problem of bears occasionally appearing around people is not going to work. Even with hunting, we will still likely see bears. People need education on how to interact with them and protect their spaces by properly storing food, etc.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns. I will be keeping an eye on this issue. I hope that you consider either not allowing the hunting of bears or putting very strict regulations and protection around this. I appreciate the opportunity to express my views to you. I hope you have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Annalisa Deal  
[anna.deal68@gmail.com](mailto:anna.deal68@gmail.com)  
608 Springfield Rd  
Somers, CT 06071